

CLAIMS

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1. An oral drug delivery composition comprising a chromone wherein (1) not more than 10% of the chromone dissolves after two hours exposure of the composition to simulated gastric fluid and (2) at least 15% of the chromone dissolves within 10 minutes of subsequent exposure of the composition to simulated intestinal fluid.
2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition is formulated as a tablet.
3. A composition according to claim 2 wherein the tablet has an enteric coating.
4. A composition according to claim 2 or 3 wherein the composition is still in the form of a tablet at the end of the exposure of the composition to gastric fluid.
5. The composition according to any one of claims 2 to 4 wherein the tablet comprises between about 50mg and 200mg of chromone.
6. A composition according to any of the preceding claims wherein the composition further comprises disintegrant at a ratio of at least 1.2:1(w:w) of disintegrant to chromone.
7. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition comprises substantially spherical pellets of up to 5 mm diameter comprising the chromone, each pellet having an enteric coating.
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8. An oral drug delivery composition comprising a chromone wherein the composition further comprises disintegrant at a ratio of at least 1.2:1(w:w) of disintegrant to chromone.
9. A composition according to claim 6 or claim 8 wherein the ratio of disintegrant to chromone is between about 1.4:1 and 2.5:1
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10. An oral drug delivery composition comprising a chromone, wherein the composition comprises substantially spherical pellets of up to 5 mm diameter comprising the chromone, each pellet having an enteric coating.
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11. A composition according to any of the preceding claims wherein the composition, tablet or pellet further comprises an amphoteric surfactant or a surfactant having an hydrophile-lipophile balance (HLB) value of less than about 10.
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12. An oral drug delivery composition comprising a chromone, wherein the composition further comprises (1) an amphoteric surfactant and/or (2) a surfactant having a HLB value of less than 2 or being a sorbitan ester having an HLB value of less than about 10.
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13. The oral drug delivery composition of claim 12 further comprising a disintegrant.
14. A oral drug delivery composition according to any one of claims 11 to 13 wherein the amphoteric surfactant or surfactant having an HLB

value of less than about 10 or sorbitan ester having an HLB value of less than about 10 has an HLB value of less than about 4.

15. The oral drug delivery composition of any one of claims 11 to 14 wherein the surfactant having an HLB value of less than about 10 or sorbitan ester having an HLB value of less than about 10 is sorbitan trioleate.

- AS ~~544~~ 16. A composition according to any one of claims 6, 8, 9, 11, 13 wherein the disintegrant is microcrystalline cellulose.

17. A composition according to claim 7 or 10 wherein the pellets are melt pellets.

18. A composition according to any one of claims 7, 10 or 17 wherein the pellets have a diameter of between 0.7mm and 1.8 mm.

19. A composition according to any one of Claims 7, 10, 17 or 18 wherein the pellets are packaged in one or more capsules formed of a material which will release the microgranules in the stomach.

20. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims additionally comprising a chelator of heavy metal ions, such as EDTA.

21. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the chromone is sodium cromoglycate.

22. A composition according to any of claims 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 20 or 21 wherein the chromone and disintegrant together form at least 50% by mass of the composition.
- 5 23. A composition according to any one of the preceding claims for use in medicine.
- 10 24. A method of treating a patient for an allergic condition comprising administering to the patient a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 22.
25. ^{not}Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 22 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a patient having an allergic condition.
- 15 26. A method according to claim 24 or use according to claim 25 wherein a daily dose of 100-5000 mg is delivered.
- 20 27. The method or use according to any of claims 24 to 26 characterised in that the patient has first been selected to have a total serum IgE level of at least 150 iu/ml.
- 25 28. The method or use according to Claim 27 wherein the serum IgE level of the patient is tested during the course of the treatment and the dose of chromone is increased or prolonged if the level has not fallen to, or is not falling towards, 150 iu/ml.

29. A method or use according to any one of Claims 24 to 28 wherein the patient is also given anti-muscarinic medication so that at least part of the effect of the ~~chromone~~ treatment overlaps temporally with at least part of the effect of the anti-muscarinic treatment.

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